

REMARKS**Amendments to the claims that are proposed**

Claims 1, 4-6, and 9-10 are to be cancelled without prejudice. Claim 2 is to be amended so that it is in independent form and incorporates the limitations of Claim 1. The claims remaining in this application are to be Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8.

Discussion

The Office Action mailed on October 19, 2005 rejected Claims 1, 4-6, and 9-10. The Office Action objected to Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

This Amendment after Final Rejection requests that the rejected claims be cancelled without prejudice and that Claim 2 be amended so that it is an independent claim and includes all of the limitations of the claim from which it formerly depended, that is, Claim 1. Claims 3, 7, and 8 depend from Claim 2. The claims that were objected to therefore would not depend from any rejected claim.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the proposed amendments because they would be proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(i) by “canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action.” Furthermore, entry of the proposed amendments will place this application in condition for allowance.

Because this amendment cancels claims and adopts examiner suggestions, and therefore requires only a cursory review by the Examiner, compliance with the requirement of a showing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116(b)(3) is not necessary. M.P.E.P. 714.13. Furthermore, the Applicant notes that this reply to the Office Action is mailed

within two months of the mailing date of the Office Action and therefore claims the benefit of the procedure set out in M.P.E.P. 714.13.1 regarding the expiration date of the shortened statutory period.

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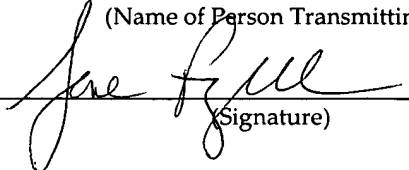
In view of the above, the Applicant submits that the application will be in condition for allowance upon entry of the proposed amendments. Entry of the proposed amendments and issuance of a notice of allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 08-2025. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 08-2025.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

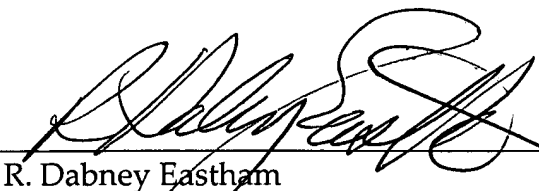
December 19, 2005
(Date of Transmission)

Jane Penzell
(Name of Person Transmitting)


(Signature)

December 19, 2005
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,


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